

# ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER.

UNDER THE SANCTION OF  
THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

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## THE EAST AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

(To the Editor of *The Times*.)

SIR,—In *The Times* of October 6th there is an account of Sir Bartle Frere's report on the East African Slave-trade. As I have lately been travelling in the Soudan and Abyssinia, will you kindly permit me to mention one or two facts relating to the slave-trade in those countries where Sir Bartle Frere has not been? It is true that Sir Samuel Baker has checked the Khar-toum slave-trade, but between Khartoum and the Abyssinian frontier an extensive trade is still carried on.

At Metemma, a town where the Khédive has a regular garrison of nearly 3,000

soldiers, there is a public slave-market, where I have seen more than 500 slaves for sale at a time. The day I left a batch of 300 more arrived, and booths were being set up for their accommodation; into these booths they are crowded as thickly as they can stand, and many of them die for want of proper food and air before they can be brought up for sale. I saw many black slaves from the White Nile, but by far the greater number of the slaves at Metemma were young Abyssinians who were going to be shipped to Jiddah; and it is a significant fact that the steamers which transport these slaves across the Red Sea belong to his Highness the Khédive, while a tax is received by his officer at Massowa on each slave sent out of the

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## THE EAST AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

(To the Editor of *The Times*.)

SIR,—In *The Times* of October 6th there is an account of Sir Bartle Frere's report on the East African Slave-trade. As I have lately been travelling in the Soudan and Abyssinia, will you kindly permit me to mention one or two facts relating to the slave-trade in those countries where Sir Bartle Frere has not been? It is true that Sir Samuel Baker has checked the Khar-  
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soldiers, there is a public slave-market, where I have seen more than 500 slaves for sale at a time. The day I left a batch of 300 more arrived, and booths were being set up for their accommodation; into these booths they are crowded as thickly as they can stand, and many of them die for want of proper food and air before they can be brought up for sale. I saw many black slaves from the White Nile, but by far the greater number of the slaves at Metemma were young Abyssinians who were going to be shipped to Jiddah; and it is a significant fact that the steamers which transport these slaves across the Red Sea belong to his Highness the Khédive, while a tax is received by his officer at Massowa on each slave sent out of the

country. With regard to slaves who go to the British Consuls in Lower Egypt to claim their liberty, it is true they obtain it; but, if men, they are at once sent into the army, so that they really only get a change of masters. When I was in Abyssinia I asked King John of that country why there were so many Abyssinian slaves sold in Egypt, pointing out to him that those who were Christians were often forced to renounce their religion. The king then explained to me that, though the Abyssinian Christians are not allowed to sell slaves, his Mohammedan subjects do so, and often carry on an extensive trade in young girls and boys, whom they kidnap and sell to the slave-traders in Upper Nubia. His Majesty said, however, that if I thought England was interested in the matter he had now the power to stop this traffic, and I induced him to promise in a letter he was then writing to Lord Granville that he would do so, and also free all the slaves then existing in Abyssinia. This, undoubtedly, if carried out, will strike a great blow to the slave-trade on the Red Sea, as large numbers of Galla and other Abyssinian slaves are every year shipped from the Soudan to Jiddah, where they are in great request; and now that Sir Samuel Baker has checked the transport of slaves down the White Nile, it is to be hoped that this part of the coast of East Africa may be cleansed of this infamous traffic.

It is, however, much to be wished that the Egyptian Government would act at least as energetically as the King of Abyssinia has promised to do, and severely punish all merchants dealing in slaves in the Soudan as well as in Cairo. A public slave-market in a town like Metemma, with an organised Egyptian Government and garrison, is little in accordance with the civilisation at the "head of which his Highness the Khédive claims to be on the African Continent." Nor is the Turkish Government any better. At Jiddah, on the coast of Arabia, there is also a slave-market, and the European consuls seem in no way to be able to check the regular importation of slaves. Indeed, when I was there last July the only representative of the English Government was a Mohammedan Indian merchant, who could scarcely speak English at all. Yet many British vessels go to Jiddah each year.

Apologizing for having trespassed so far on your valuable space,

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. A. DE COSSON.

Firsleigh, Torquay, October 9th.

## THE EAST AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE NOT DESTROYED.

OUR conviction that the mere signing of the Zanzibar Anti-Slavery Treaty would not stop the slave-trade proves already to have been well founded. The following extracts from advices from Zanzibar of August 30th, published in the *Pall Mall* and *The Times*, show that the Arabs have opened a new channel, by which to forward gangs of slaves. Instead of sending them by sea they now take the land route, and "some thousands of slaves have been transported northwards." We trust the British Government will at once checkmate the traffickers in human flesh. Consular establishments, north and south of Zanzibar to supervise the coast, are a first desiderata. Moreover, the moral influence of the Foreign Office, and of the whole nation, should be brought to bear upon the Khédive of Egypt, the Sultan of Turkey, and the Shah of Persia to put an end to slavery in their dominions. So long as slavery continues as an institution in these countries, the slave-trade will be carried on. Stop the demand, and the supply will cease:—

(*Times*.)

"ZANZIBAR, Aug. 30th.

"Since the departure of the last mail for England many circumstances have transpired here and on the coast, which serve to indicate some of the more immediate results which it might have been anticipated would follow the signing of the Anti-Slave Trade Treaty by the Sultan, when once the first shock and novelty of the matter had passed away. The English Consul-General has but lately returned from a somewhat extended trip along the African coast, during which he visited Kilwa Kairugu, where Sir Bartle Frere was received in so hostile a manner by the natives; the river Lufigi, which is pronounced to be unnavigable; Mafid and Latham Island. The result of his inspection is understood to be that, as might have been foreseen, the Arab slave-traders are not going to give up the fight at the first repulse, but, now that the sea route is, for the present at all events, rendered so exceedingly dangerous for them by the vigilance of our cruisers, they have already commenced transporting the slaves northward to Melinda by a route along the coast line. It is believed that several gangs, amounting in all to SOME THOUSANDS, have passed up in this way in chains, or secured in forked sticks, and it may be anticipated that this will go on until all the slaves accumulated for this season's shipment at Kilwa and elsewhere shall have been worked off. . . .

"It is well to remember that if we relax our efforts for a moment, or even let

matters stand as they are, we may expect the trade to continue with but little diminution of its horrors or of its extent. Now is the time to deal permanently and effectively with the whole matter; and the stoppage of the sea-borne traffic must be followed up by a vigorous attack on the newly opened land-route.

"The Consul-General is very vigorous in tracing out any attempt to evade the provisions of the new Treaty, and it is rumoured that a British Indian subject will shortly be sent to Bombay for trial on a charge of re-enslaving freed people, in open defiance of the Treaty. If this be true, and if conviction and severe punishment should ensue, we may expect to hear but little more of any such practices on the part of British Indian subjects."

(*Pall Mall*.)

"Our advices inform us that Dr. Kirk, the Consul-General, has returned from a trip along the coast in the *Shearwater*, Captain Wharton, looking into all sorts of odd nooks and corners. From Latham Island they went to Lufigi, and ran up that river in the steam-cutter for a distance of twenty miles. The conclusion arrived at is that the Lufigi, like almost every other African river on the eastern side of the continent, is utterly useless for trading purposes. The party then went to Kilwa, where they were well received by the local authorities. From information gained on the spot, it appears that the land route bids fair to vie with the suppressed sea route for the transport of slaves. The system has already been organised and will soon be developed into something formidable. Parties start at night, march up to Dar-es-Salem and Bagayamo, then they either go on to Mom-basa and Lamoo from those places and Brava, or else are shipped at Melinda for Lamoo, or taken to Pemba and Zanzibar in fishing canoes. Outside Kilwa, on the slave line, you march one day in the shambas or plantations; then, on your way to Nyassa, you have ten days' constant march through a district without people, for the Wa Moevee and the Wa Guido are not there, but in Zanzibar; they have been hunted or sold, or they are dead, and the country for those ten days is a desert. Another such desert meets you on the other side of the Romuva, insomuch that slave-hunting for the last year has been extending northward. These facts suffice to show that the slave battle is still to be fought, and that until slavery, as a status authorising sale, is prohibited, not on the east coast of Africa alone, but throughout the East, the slave-trade will go on. Thousands of slaves have already been moved northerly by land ;

others will be hunted nearer Zanzibar. The grand object which we ought to have in view is general emancipation. The slaves themselves will probably concur in such a movement, for it is reported that those at Pangani and Tanga have made another stampede and gone off in a mass.

"A large cargo of slaves has been seized in the Mozambique Channel, on the way to Majunga, in Madagascar, and ample proof has been found that a large trade in slaves goes on almost under the guns of the fort of Mozambique. In fact, they are about as bad as the Zanzibar Arabs in that line."

#### A SLAVER CAPTURED—FEARFUL MORTALITY.

EARLY in September, about three months after the signature of the Zanzibar anti-slave-trade treaty, Her Majesty's ship *Daphne* captured a slave dhow, which started on her northward voyage with 300 slaves, of whom she lost about 250 !!! The *Daphne* found only 50 slaves alive, who were mere skeletons; they were landed at Seychelles, a wretched place for such poor creatures to be taken to.

#### THE PORTUGUESE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

UNDER date of October 24th, 1873, *The Friend of India* reports:—"The suppression of the slave-trade in Zanzibar would seem to have driven it into the Portuguese territory, as we feared. On August 4th, Her Majesty's ship *Briton*, Captain Malcolm, arrived at the Port D'Urban, Natal, having on board 113 slaves, captured from a dhow in the Mozambique channel: 63 of the captured slaves were children under twelve years of age. The slaves, who have been well treated, and have obtained free service, state that they had been kidnapped with the sanction of one "Umkuba Muntu," a chief under Portuguese rule, from the coast lying in the immediate vicinity of the town of Mozambique; and that the same Umkuba Muntu, who reports to the Portuguese authorities, is in the habit of collecting slaves himself, as also of sanctioning slave hunting in the districts under his rule. One dhow, at least, has lately run successfully from the same district, and four were still loading with slaves about the end of July last. Thus the Mozambique Government, which at the present moment is placing every difficulty in the way of a legitimate labour immigration from Delegea Bay to Natal, permits a thriving slave-traffic to take place within a few miles of its head-quarters, under the auspices of



one of its appointed chiefs. Has Lord Granville followed up Sir Bartle Frere's successful mission by remonstrance with Portugal?

### THE SLAVE-TRADE IN THE NILE DISTRICT AND ABYSSINIA.

WE insert the following letter from an esteemed correspondent, who is personally acquainted with the Abyssinian and Upper Nile districts, and who has been an eye-witness to the horrors and evils of the slave-trade in these places. We feel assured that our readers will peruse the statements with interest.

*To the Secretary of the British  
and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.*

*October 1, 1873.*

DEAR SIR,—During my ten years' stay in Abyssinia I had often opportunity to see, with heart-rending feelings, with what fearful power and cruelties the slave-trade was carried on. I often spoke to King Theodorus about the suppression of the slave-trade. The king said, "It is my duty to do my best in this matter, but it is a very difficult business, because if I succeed to stop the traffic in one place, the slave-traders carry on their work, just as well, in another place." This is quite true, because I remember the time when the slave market at Mattamah (Kalabat), a large village on the northern boundaries of Abyssinia was stopped, the slave-traders made up their camp some miles away from Mattamah, and there they carried on their work just as well as at Kalabat. The extensive plains, tropical vegetation, large forests of bamboos, mimosa, tamarinds and other bushes, favour the plans of the slave-traders to carry their victims to Massowah or Soukin on the Red Sea.

The slave-traders are very clever and cunning. They are, as it seems to me, a Satanic incarnation to carry on one of the most destructive systems in the world. The work of the Anti-Slavery Society, therefore, is not only one of the noblest, but also one of the most difficult undertakings on the globe. The Lord Jesus, however, will help the Society to gain the victory.

It is believed or pretended, by His Royal Highness the Khédive of Egypt, that Sir Samuel Baker's expedition to the regions of the White Nile has checked the slave-hunting. We love this good news, and we like to believe it, because we love it, but for my part, I must say that reason stands in the way of faith. In the regions of the White Nile, and Gondokoro, the hunting grounds are so extensive that, if hindered in

one place the slave-dealers can easily move to another which could not be followed by the paralyzed Egyptian expedition of Sir Samuel Baker. By this I do not intend to say that Sir Samuel Baker has neglected his duties in reference to the slave-traffic. He has certainly done more than any other gentleman could have done in his position; but I heard, and read it too, that during Sir Samuel Baker's expedition in the regions of the White Nile, the slave-traders carried on their business in spite of Sir Samuel Baker's presence. The Austrian consul, Hansall, at Khartoum, states that 14,000 slaves were brought from the White Nile to Khartoum in 1871—just at the time when Sir Samuel was at the White Nile. When His Royal Highness, the Khédive of Egypt, assures the Society he has checked the slave-trade in Soudan and the regions of Gondokoro, when he agreed to all the conditions of the English government respecting the slave-trade, and when he seeks to satisfy us by a multiplication of fine promises, and by the repetition of old ones, we must ever judge of such professions by his performances.

In the 12th vol. of Brakhouse's great lexicon, we find an article in the biography of his Highness, the said Basha of Egypt, which declares that, when the said Basha visited Khartoum and Soudan, he entirely abolished slavery in those countries. That was in 1857 !!! The same declaration was made in 1862, when Musa Basha came to Khartoum as ruler of Soudan, yet an uninterrupted slave-trade has been carried on, in consequence of which Kedarif and its neighbourhood has been depopulated. The great and well-known English traveller, Mr. Bruce, a hundred years ago, found all these fertile districts well populated, while to-day they are well-nigh uninhabited. A similar remark holds true in respect to the Galla country.

The slave-dealers formerly got their slaves nearer. Now they are obliged to get them from the interior. When I crossed the Soudan, I was told that the slave-traders brought their victims mostly from the Blue Nile; they try to pass, as near as possible to the Abyssinian countries, whence they can increase the number of their slaves by stealing Abyssinian boys and girls who are more valued than the other slaves; then they hurry them, as quickly as possible, to Massowah or to Souakin for shipment to the Hejz and Yemen.

I am anxious to impress upon the Society how necessary it is to exercise a strict control over Khartoum and the whole of the Soudan, especially upon the northern boundaries of Abyssinia. All these countries, which are tributary half to Egypt and half to Abyssinia, are the hunting

places of the slave-dealers and robbers. The Rev. Mr. —, who travelled from Abyssinia to Mattamah, and spent some time in this city, was quite surprised to see on what a large scale the slave-trade is carried on in those places. He left Mattamah and went by Kedarif and Kassela to Souakin the seaport. At Souakin he took an Egyptian steamer, but he was surprised that the captain of the vessel would not allow his Abyssinian servant, who desired to go to Egypt, to enter in the vessel, for, he said, "I am afraid on account of the Government who does not allow that slaves should enter into her vessels." The Rev. Mr. — had some difficulty to explain to the captain that the Abyssinian servant was a free man. The servant explained the same to the captain, who finally took him into the vessel. The Rev. Mr. — was not a little astonished to find out that more than a hundred slave boys and girls, of whom he saw many some time ago in Mattamah, were secretly in the lower part of the steamer who were brought to Suez.

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#### SIR SAMUEL BAKER'S LECTURE, IN THE THEATRE OF THE LONDON UNIVERSITY.

ON Monday, Dec. 8th, a Meeting was held in the theatre of the London University, to welcome Sir Samuel Baker on his return from Central Africa, and to listen to a statement of some of his proceedings in that part of the world. Sir Bartle Frere presided, their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh were present, together with a very large circle of persons distinguished in science and politics.

Sir Samuel Baker did not enter into any particulars of the scheme of the Khedive, through him, to conquer and annex to the territories of Egypt all the countries in the Upper Nile district, and thus extend the system, influence and rule of Mohammedanism to the Equator. Sir Samuel however entered fully into the details of his expedition in attempting to put down the slave-trade. With the exception of two or three anecdotes illustrative of the customs of some of the African tribes, very little new information was given beyond that contained in Sir Samuel Baker's letters which had appeared in the *Times* newspaper; and nothing was advanced which had led us to change the views expressed in the last *Reporter* respecting the real success of the expedition to put down the slave-trade. We observe that these views are shared in by other contemporaries, and have much pleasure in giving, in full, the following remarks of a correspondent, under

the signature of "Misty" in the *Pall Mall Gazette* :—

"Sir Samuel Baker's narrative of his late expedition, as delivered before the Royal Geographical Society last evening, was a plain unvarnished statement of its alleged object and the manner in which it was carried out. Take for granted that the Khedive of Egypt was perfectly justified in annexing the extensive territory traversed, and that his Highness's real aim was what it professed to be—namely, the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade in those distant regions—and there is not a word to be said against the means adopted to that end; on the contrary, I believe that it would have been impossible to find a man more fitted in every way for carrying them out than Sir Samuel Baker, in whose honesty I have the greatest confidence, and whose indomitable energy and perseverance are beyond all praise. Unfortunately, however, for the Khedive, his own people generally, and many others well acquainted with Egypt, hesitate to take the same view of his Highness's anti-slavery policy that Sir Samuel Baker takes. Why is it, say these dissenters, that the Khedive has made no attempt hitherto to arrest the slave-trade at Khartoum? Why does he permit slaves to be shipped in the vicinity of Massowah? How is it that the occupation of the *Jall abs* has not been stopped at Cairo? And, above all, why does not his Highness set an example to his people by liberating the hundreds of slaves attached to his household? It is all very well to talk before an English audience of the force of 'public opinion' in Egypt and of Muslim prejudices, but any one conversant with the government of that country knows that it is absolutely despotic, and that, were the Khedive so disposed, he might abolish slavery there as easily as he has abrogated or set aside several other time-honoured institutions of Islâm. Besides, considering the wretched condition of the fellâhs of Egypt, it may be fairly questioned whether the extension of the Khedive's rule to the southern regions of the White Nile would be a blessing. The short speech of the Prince of Wales, disclaiming having taken part in Sir Samuel Baker's expedition beyond that dictated by philanthropy, was eminently satisfactory."

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#### DEPUTATION TO LORD GRANVILLE,

ON THE SLAVE-TRADE AND SLAVERY IN EGYPT, IN VIEW OF THE EXTENSION OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY TO THE BASIN OF THE NILE.

ON Friday afternoon, October 31st, 1873, a deputation from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society waited upon Earl Granville, at the Foreign Office, to present a memorial to his lordship on this subject. The following gentlemen were present :—The Right Hon. Russell Gurney, M.P., the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., Mr. Charles Gilpin, M.P., Sir Bartle Frere, K.C.B.,

Mr. Edmund Sturge, Mr. Robert Alsop, the Rev. Horace Waller (vicar of Leytonstone), the Rev. J. A. Whitehouse, Mr. Samuel Gurney, Mr. F. W. Chesson, and Mr. James Long.

The deputation was introduced by Mr. CHARLES GILPIN, M.P., who impressed upon his lordship the importance of preventing the extension of slavery and the slave-trade into the regions of the Upper Nile.

Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY, M.P., as chairman of the late Parliamentary Committee on the East African slave-trade, supported this view.

Mr. EDMUND STURGE, one of the hon. secretaries to the Society (in the absence of the Rev. B. Millard, the secretary, in Scotland) read the following Memorial:—

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE EARL GRANVILLE, K.G., HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

In view of the now probable extension of the rule of Egypt to the equatorial basin of the Nile, the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society venture to submit to your Lordship the following considerations.

In the light in which the nations of Europe have concurred in regarding the slave-trade, the prospect now opening of the territorial extension of Egypt to the remote sources of the Nile, and of its rule over a vast aggregate of tribes and nations in Central Africa, must be viewed as one of the greatest importance.

At the Congress of Vienna, in 1815, and again at Verona, in 1822, the several European Powers there represented, emphatically denounced the slave-trade, and solemnly recognized and recorded their obligation to "labour for its extinction."

The obligation and the duty thus deliberately made the subject of international treaties, were founded on considerations of a common humanity, and of the welfare of mankind.

While these still exist in undiminished force, there are now secondary, but at the same time most important aspects, in which the nations of Europe are entitled to view the subject of the "Slave-trade and Slavery in Egypt," viz., that so long as these exist (and they mutually depend on each other), they effectually prevent an extension of

civilization and commerce, beneficial alike to Europe and to Africa.

If, on the primary aspects of the slave-trade, the Governments of Europe have a duty to discharge, it may be safely asserted that, in respect of the secondary, they have common rights to maintain. They are entitled to insist that a state of chronic piracy, on an enormous scale, inseparable from slavery and the slave-trade as it exists on the continent and shores of Eastern Africa, shall no longer debar their subjects from a beneficial and almost boundless commerce with those regions of surpassing productiveness.

It therefore becomes the duty of the several Powers who were parties of the declarations made at Vienna and Verona, to intimate to His Highness the Khédive of Egypt that, while not unwilling to acquiesce in the extension of his rule to the farther regions of the Nile, *the condition of such extension being the extinction of the slave-trade and the abolition of slavery*, they are not prepared to recognise his authority in those countries so long as these may be tolerated within his dominions.

We are, my Lord,

Yours, with great respect, on behalf of  
the Committee,

JOSEPH COOPER, } *Honorary*  
EDMUND STURGE, } *Secretaries.*  
ROBERT ALSOP, }

BENJAMIN MILLARD, *Secretary.*

*British and Foreign Anti-Slavery  
Society, 27, New Broad Street, London.*

*October 29th, 1873.*

SIR BARTLE FRERE testified to the strong personal interest in the abolition of slavery which the Khédive manifested in conversations he had with him on his way to Zanzibar, and expressed his conviction that his Highness was perfectly sincere in his desire that his country should follow in the steps of enlightened nations on this subject; but his good intentions were, to a great extent, frustrated by the difficulty of securing cordial co-operation on the part of his officers, and also because as the head of an autocratic Government it was not easy for him to obtain timely information of the infraction of his orders.

In confirmation of Sir Bartle Frere's view of the sincerity of the Khédive in professing a policy of abolition, Mr. EDMUND STURGE read an extract from a letter



he had just received from his colleague, Mr. Joseph Cooper, who assisted at a deputation to the Khédive when he visited Paris in 1867:—"As to the Koran, or the religious difficulty, the Khédive, and his Minister, Nubar Pasha, laid no stress upon it when we had an interview with him in Paris; they both of them condemned slavery in strong terms, and united in their statement that it must disappear from Egypt." Lord Granville would thus see that the abolition of slavery in Egypt had been a subject of contemplation on the part of the Khédive for many years, though surrounded by difficulties, which needed the united moral influence of the Western Powers to enable him to surmount. Mr. Sturge reminded his lordship of the exertions of the Duke of Wellington in obtaining, at the Congress of Verona, an emphatic declaration against the slave-trade, and he trusted that her Majesty's Government would avail themselves of the present favourable moment to obtain and to give effect to the collective sense of the European Powers in regard to the slave-trade and slavery in the East.

Mr. KINNAIRD assured his lordship that a very strong feeling existed on this question.

The Rev. HORACE WALLER urged the extreme importance of consular supervision in the Mozambique Channel, as the Portuguese were at this moment carrying on an active slave-trade with Madagascar. On behalf of his colleagues and himself he paid a warm tribute to his lordship's earnest efforts to make the influence of England felt in favour of the abolition of the slave-trade.

LORD GRANVILLE, in reply, remarked that his hands were greatly strengthened by such influential deputations as the one then before him, and confirmed what had been said regarding the Khédive's personal feeling in the matter. In expressing his sympathy with the objects of the deputation generally, he observed that the attention of the Government had been directed, not only to the question as relating to Egypt, but also to the traffic existing in Tripoli, Tunis, and Abyssinia.

The deputation, having thanked his lordship for his courteous and patient attention to their statements, then withdrew.

#### "FORCED LABOUR IN EGYPT."

WE are assured by some that the present Khédive of Egypt is a most enlightened ruler, far in advance of his day, and most anxious to promote the welfare of the people at large; that though domestic slavery

obtains, the subjects of the Viceroy enjoy liberty. We shall rejoice to witness the adoption of such measures as shall evidence an enlightened rule, and a determination to destroy the system of "FORCED labour" exacted by the Khédive, which is only a modified species of slavery, most detrimental to the individual and social welfare of the inhabitants of Egypt, thousands of whom "sigh by reason of the bondage" they endure.

In illustration of the character and extent of the system of "forced labour," wrung from the "fellas" of the land by the Khédive, we give the following extracts from an article on the subject by one who, we have reason to believe, thoroughly understands the subject:—

"And so, after a lapse of another three or four thousand years, history repeats itself. The Pharaoh of the present day does exactly as did the Pharaoh who built the Great Pyramid. The only difference is, that whereas Cheops expended £200,000 on food for the labourers—and, as Herodotus further remarks, 'if that be true, how much more must have been spent on iron tools, &c.?'—the Pharaoh of the present day makes his labourers *not only supply their own food but bring their own tools*. This may appear incredible; but a few facts which came under my observation during a residence of two years in Egypt, and more especially in the early months of the present year, will show the actual state of affairs.

"A new canal for the purposes of irrigation is required in some of the provinces of Middle Egypt, not very far from Cairo. It is to start from Assiout, some 250 miles away, and run parallel with the Nile almost to Cairo. It is wanted, and that is enough. Orders are issued to governors of districts to supply the necessary amount of labour; these settle the proportion from each Mohdeer under them; these, again, from the Nazars, who make requisitions upon the Sheiks of the various villages to supply their quota, sometimes to the extent of *half the male population of a village*. The sheik has the selection of the men, boys, and sometimes girls, who are all bound to serve unless they can afford to obtain substitutes. They are bound to provide themselves with hoes and baskets, and with bread to last fifty days, and to be ready by a certain fixed day. The time arrived, they are marched off, *wives and children being left to take care of themselves as they best can*, and are put on board immense barges on the Nile, which are towed down stream sometimes five or six abreast, to be landed at some distant spot, maybe three hundred miles or more away from home. In going up the Nile by Dahabuah, last January, I saw several steamers for many days towing barges loaded in this manner with at least 2,000 men and boys in each batch—their task-masters amongst them, *running about over their heads and with long whips keeping them in order*. Besides these, for many days the river was crowded with native craft, all laden

with peasants on their way to the same work. In this manner 30,000 men were got together in the spring of this year in the district of Minieh, and 30,000 more in the district of Benisoeef. On going up country shortly afterwards by the Upper Egypt Railway I found them at work cutting the canal and scattered along twenty miles of the road. At one spot an exceptionally busy scene was exhibited, and here I stayed to watch them at work and question them about it. An alteration had to be made in a short piece of the canal; the Pasha had given orders that it must be done in two days; and so on a piece of land three hundred yards long and twenty wide were collected all the force of the neighbourhood. Two thousand men and boys were hard at work on or near this spot, looking like ants on an ant-hill, so crowded and so active were they. Some were hacking up the ground with the common tool, which is like a rough carpenter's adze, and raking it into light baskets. These baskets, holding only a shovelful or two of soil, are lifted on the heads of boys and carried off and tipped by the side of the cutting, so as to make a raised road or towing-path alongside the canal. We talked with many of these men and with the sheiks, their task-masters, and were told that *they had been all brought away from their villages by force, some from as far as Kenneh, 330 miles distant.* The arrangement is that they work and live together in parties according to the villages they come from; *they must bring a bread-supply for fifty days; if it is exhausted before that time, they must replenish at their own expense or that of the sheik of their village, who in this case will take care to repay himself with interest on their return.* But if they are detained beyond the fifty days, they are then supplied with bread at Government expense. This bread consists of small round cakes of doorah or Egyptian corn, baked and then dried in the sun; and the stock of provision belonging to each company is guarded by a small boy or old man close to the spot where each company are at work. Each set has a portion of work measured out, and great was the noise and quarrelling among a group of sheiks over three inches of boundary line. But not only has bread to be supplied; *each man has to pay a few piastres to the sheik for the purchase of tools, and doubtless he makes some profit on the transaction.* Indeed, I fear the sheiks or those nearest them in authority are often great oppressors: one poor fellow told me he had given the sheik twenty-five piastres to find him a substitute, and after all had been compelled to come himself. Yet, notwithstanding these hardships, they looked perfectly contented. They are a fine strong race of men. There is certainly no superfluous fat about them, but they are well-built, and broad-shouldered. They live entirely in the open air, and, rolling themselves in a brown woollen cloak, sleep well enough on the dry hard ground and under the starry sky of Egypt. To some questions as to what would become of their wives and children during their absence, they replied, 'Allah is

great, and will provide for them.' It was marvellous, too, how hard they were working on this special piece mentioned above—working as I have never seen Arabs do even for wages. *They began at sunrise and kept at it till dark, nearly fourteen hours, and this under a mid-summer sun, with the thermometer at 106 deg. in the shade.* Forty hours after the commencement of this section the work was finished, the whole of the excavated earth being carried away in baskets on the head. An Arab never uses a wheelbarrow; indeed, it is said that when barrows were first introduced for railway and canal work the natives, having filled them, lifted them on their heads and carried them off to the tip. This special piece of work must not, however, be taken as a fair criterion of all, for the men are naturally indolent, and do as little as possible.

"Nor is this canal the only public work carried on in Egypt. Here we have 60,000 men at work; but 80,000 more are employed at the same moment in cutting a new canal from near the head of the Delta to supply more water to the Mahmoudieh Canal, running to Alexandria. And a similar number have lately completed the embankment for 100 miles of railway in the same district. So that at least 140,000 men have been at work for months in forced labour."

Though we have little sympathy with those who speak of "domestic slavery" as a desirable institution, we can well understand how that thousands of the poor wretches drafted off in the forced labour gangs envy the lot of those slaves who form part of the social establishment of the well-to-do Mussulman. Good will it be for the country, and great will be the joy of tens of thousands of the sons of the soil, when His Royal Highness, the Khedive of Egypt shall determine to substitute the paid service of freemen for the present system of "forced" labour or modified slavery.

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#### THE SLAVE TRADE IN WHITE FEMALES, &c

THOUGH the Sultan of Turkey is under treaty with Great Britain to put down the slave-trade, yet it is a well-known fact that there is an extensive traffic carried on in a number of cities in the Turkish dominions, and that not only a large number of African women, girls and boys are being disposed of for servants, but that also a considerable number of Circassian and Georgian (white) females are sold to supply the harems. Women and girls, as beautiful and fair as any of their sisters in Europe, are brought from Trebizonde and other places, and sent to the slave-markets in Constantinople, and in other cities both in Turkey and Egypt, to meet the demands of the Mussul-

mans. True the trade is carried on in an underhanded manner, nevertheless it is not the less real—and demoralizing. In proportion as the country prospers, will the trade under existing circumstances increase. How sad that—with English, Austrian, Russian and other embassies in Constantinople, and consuls in various cities in Turkey and Egypt, having command of a number of agents who could bring these things to light—the trade in human beings should be carried on.

The following remarks in the French paper, the *Journal des Debates* commend themselves to the judgment of the right thinking.—

"Many Governments pretend not to know that in Turkey, and particularly at Trebizonde, a great number of Circassian girls are sold to supply the harems of Constantinople and Egypt. In addition, Russia, which is mistress of the Caucasus, and which no longer tolerates slavery, will certainly second the efforts about to be made to prevent the traffic in white women. Has not the Czar just restored to liberty the Persians of the Khanate of Khiva? And have not the whites a right to the same degree of protection as the Chinese coolies and the negroes of the Soudan? At Malta, that port of transit between the coasts of Africa and those of Turkey, ships charged with negroes who have received papers of liberation frequently stop. The captains of those vessels alone can inform us what these documents are worth when Malta is left far behind. Would it not be possible for the English authorities to oppose some obstacle to the disguised trade which is thus carried on in spite of them? Lastly, if we are to believe the *Nil*, numerous sales and purchases of slaves are effected in Egypt, at the fair of Tintah, with much regularity, and with so few formalities that nobody is ignorant of the fact. Will the Khedive, by the orders of whom Sir Samuel Baker has just made on the Upper Nile a campaign so fatal to the 'dealers in ebony,' permit things which he forbids at the extremity of his territory to be done under his very eyes? As we have a right to count on the good intentions of Russia, Turkey, and Egypt to put an end to these abuses, we may expect that the efforts of England, the United States, and France will be successful, and that the Mediterranean and the Black Sea will be shortly closed against these dealers in human flesh, already expelled from so many points where they had established themselves as masters."

#### SLAVERY IN THE ENGLISH SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLD COAST.

In common with large numbers of our countrymen, we deeply deplore the war between England and the Ashantees. Blood—fire—misery—death—will mark the track of British soldiers, and sad evils

will result to all concerned. It is, however, a satisfaction to see that the Great Disposer of Events does bring good out of evil. If He, for wise ends, permits men to yield to the lowest passions, He will also cause the wrath of man to praise Him. We shall rejoice to see this illustrated with regard to the state of things in West Africa.

Though the export trade in negroes from West Africa to the Western hemisphere has been stopped, it is known that there has been an intertribal trade, which at times has been very brisk; and a short time ago an agent of the British Government at Lagos was accused of violating the first principles of the British Constitution by the rendition of escaped slaves to masters living beyond the colony. This, we were assured, has been put a stop to. But we believe that few Englishmen are prepared to learn from *The Times* correspondent what is the state of things in the *English settlements on the Gold Coast*. Unless the British Government take the matter in hand at once, and follow the noble example of Russia in the Khanate of Khiva, we trust that the English people will bring such influence to bear on the ministry that the British name and nation will no longer be disgraced. The following is the extract of the letter of *The Times* correspondent:—

"Cape Coast Castle, Nov. 8, 1873.

"It can scarcely be known in England that in the ENGLISH SETTLEMENTS on the Gold Coast slavery exists in a most hideous and revolting form, and is not only tolerated, but *formally recognised and sanctioned by law*. It is generally believed that where English rule prevails slavery cannot exist. *Yet all the force and authority of English law is exerted to assist the slave-owner in his claim to his human chattels.* The slavery which exists here is termed 'domestic slavery.' The real meaning of this term simply is that the slave-owner cannot export his slave. This is the one practical limitation placed upon his power. A SLAVE CAN BE BOUGHT AND SOLD WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THIS SETTLEMENT ALMOST AS FREELY AS A SHEEP OR AN OX. Even the deck of an English vessel does not afford protection or safety to the fugitive slave. Elsewhere an English vessel is regarded as an inviolable asylum for the oppressed. *Slaves are constantly dragged from English vessels under the warrant of an English judge, to be*



consigned to hopeless slavery. On the 1st of this month a wretched female slave was carried through the streets of Cape Coast bound hand and foot. Her piteous shrieks and cries attracted the attention of a high military official, who interfered to ascertain what offence the woman had committed, and why she received such treatment. He found that there was no charge against her, save that she had endeavoured to escape from slavery, and that she was then being, under due legal process, carried back to her master. He had to stand back out of respect to the law, and a group of English officers who were near had to look on in silent shame while the unhappy woman was carried off, vainly intreating their assistance. It is difficult to understand why such a state of things should be tolerated here. Slavery has been abolished in Sierra Leone, Lagos, and the Gambia, and no good reason can be assigned for a different rule prevailing in other places. The Fantees are about the most debased and cowardly race on the Coast. Why for such a people should the very fundamental principles and doctrines of English law be set at nought? It should not be tolerated that such a people should dictate to us. If we are to retain our possessions on the Gold Coast we ought, at least, to insist that English law shall prevail there, and none other. It is to be hoped that Sir Garnet Wolseley during his administration will add to his laurels by putting an end to slavery in the last spot where it has found refuge under English rule. It will be well worthy of his high reputation that he should give practical effect to that sentiment which is proclaimed in the memorable words, 'Liberty is commensurate with and inseparable from English rule.'

#### SLAVE WOMEN EMPLOYED BY BRITISH OFFICERS IN THE ASHANTEE WAR.

THE war in Ashantee is bringing some strange facts to light. Among other things we find that the English military and the colonial authorities are employing SLAVE WOMEN to act as labourers or porters to carry packages for the army. Up to the

14th of November over 300 women had been enrolled as a corps of porters. "A large proportion of these ARE SLAVES, SUPPLIED," says *The Times* correspondent "BY THREE LADIES, NATIVES OF CAPE COAST CASTLE, MESDAMES BARNES, SWANZY, AND HUTCHINSON. "The women receive a shilling a day each for pay, and three-pence a day for subsistence money, instead of rations. These female porters are very obedient and trustworthy, and are sent out in front, even as far as Mansue, without either guides or escort. Many of them are nursing, and carry their children as well as their burdens on their long journeys."

Natives of Cape Coast Castle, under British protection, holding female slaves by the hundreds is an announcement which will startle some of the English people who concluded that slavery under the English flag is a thing of the past. We shall be quite prepared, too, to learn that these poor creatures do not receive the shilling a day, but their slave-owners. For the English Government, by their officers, to employ slave women who are nursing and are compelled to carry their infants as well as their burdens, is a disgrace to our name and nation, against which we must loudly protest.

#### MEMORIAL TO LORD KIMBERLEY ON THE LIBERATION OF MOUNT, MORRIS, AND COATH, CONVICTED OF KIDNAPPING POLYNESIANS.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF  
KIMBERLEY, HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

WE feel it a duty respectfully to ask your Lordship's attention to two recent conspicuous failures of justice in the Australian Colonies, in carrying out "The Imperial Kidnapping Act."

At Melbourne, Victoria, the two men named Mount and Morris, adventurers on the notorious ship *Carl* who had taken an active share in the horrid transactions on board that vessel, were tried for murder, convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment.

The judge, in passing sentence, pointed out that by the imperial law, under which the prisoners had been tried, it was necessary they should be confined in some prison to be named by the Secretary of State (viz. your Lordship).

Notwithstanding this intimation from the Court, it appears that the Government of Victoria failed to obtain your Lordship's instructions. After being for some months in the legal custody of the sheriff in the

Melbourne goal (though not doing penal service), they were removed by the Government of Victoria to the Pentridge prison, in the illegal custody of the Inspector-General of prisons. On a writ of Habeas Corpus being obtained, and the case argued in the Supreme Court, the judges ruled that the prisoners were illegally held in custody of the Inspector-General of prisons, and they were liberated.

When beyond the precincts of the Court, the two men were again arrested on the charge of being illegally at large, being convicts under sentence. The police magistrate, however (assisted by twenty-six justices of the peace), instead of committing them to the custody of the sheriff, ordered them to be released, on the ground that the Supreme Court had liberated them.

We respectfully submit to your Lordship that, in this case, either there has been gross carelessness and neglect of duty on the part of the Attorney-General and authorities of the Colony of Victoria, or that the same authorities have connived at the escape of the prisoners.

Both as the author of the Act, and as the head of that department of the Government which is responsible for its efficiency as the remedy for the great and proved abuses of the labour-traffic of the South Seas, we trust your Lordship will feel how much this important case claims your consideration.

The other instance we desire to bring under your Lordship's notice recently occurred in Queensland. About two years ago, the authorities of that colony were, by the flagrancy of the case and the pressure of public opinion, reluctantly induced to prosecute Captain Coath, of the ship *Jason*, for kidnapping. He was found guilty, the judge approved the verdict, and declared that the prisoner might have been charged and convicted of piracy on the same evidence. The prisoner was sentenced to four years' imprisonment, which sentence was confirmed, on appeal, by the full Court.

After Coath had undergone less than two years' imprisonment, the Attorney-General of Queensland has held an informal re-hearing of the case, on an estate where nine Polynesians had been placed who had been taken from on board the *Jason*, and whose evidence, taken in this extra-judicial manner, has been made the basis of a report on which the prisoner has been liberated, and the trial by jury and the decision of the Judges of the colony have been virtually annulled. We are informed that the Report in question was submitted to the consideration of Judge Lutwyche, who originally tried the case, and that he saw no reason to alter his judgment.

We respectfully submit that the question is not one merely of the remission of penalties, wisely or otherwise, but whether the policy of the British Government on this labour question is to be defeated by the indifference or partiality of the Colonial authorities.

We view these occurrences with great alarm—the effect of them must be to weaken respect for the law, and in some degree even to sanction the crimes and cruelties of a system which has already stained the honour of this country.

They tend also to confirm the conviction of the Anti-Slavery Committee that the only effectual remedy for the evils of this new traffic in human beings will be found in its total suppression.

With respect, we are,  
On behalf of the Committee of the  
British and Foreign Anti-Slavery  
Society,

JOSEPH COOPER, } *Honorary*  
EDMUND STURGE, } *Secretaries.*  
ROBERT ALSOP, }

BENJ. MILLARD, *Secretary.*

27, New Broad Street, London,  
December 12th, 1873.

(REPLY.)

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH AND  
FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Downing Street, 29th December, 1873.

SIR,—I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, which reached this department on the 18th, on the subject of the release in the colony of Victoria of the men Mount and Morris, of the ship *Carl*, and of the remission, in Queensland, of the sentence passed upon Captain Coath, of the schooner *Jason*.

As regards the first case, his Lordship desires me to request that you will inform the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society that a petition for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of the Court in Victoria, which released these men, was expected to be received in this country by last mail, and that if received it would probably have been sent direct to Mr. Michie, Agent-General of the Colony, who had not communicated to this department any official statement of its receipt, or of any action that he may be taking in consequence. Lord Kimberley does not apprehend that the Secretary of State will be called upon to take any steps in connection with the hearing of this case before the Council, unless possibly he should be invited to request that the assistance of the law officers of the Crown be given to the Colony.

His Lordship has no reason to believe that these men were released on any other grounds than technical. The Committee can hardly be aware that not only the authorities of the Colony—under which term must, of course, be included the Legislature, which gave much anxious consideration to the question—but also the whole community felt very great disappointment at the failure of justice which has resulted in the liberation of these men, and he regrets that the accusation, which he cannot consider to be justified by any facts which have come before him, of gross carelessness or connivance, should have been brought by the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society against the colonial authorities.

Lord Kimberley is confident that there is no less anxiety in Victoria than in this country to prevent and punish such atrocities as those in which Mount and Morris were concerned.

With reference to the case of Captain Coath, his Lordship desires me to refer you to the letter from this office of the 17th of this month, and to state that he has only to add, that he has no evidence before him confirming the statement, that the judge who originally tried the case in 1871 adhered to his judgment after being made acquainted with the statements of the Polynesians examined by the Attorney-General of Queensland.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
H. T. HOLLAND.

#### NOTE ON LETTER OF DEC. 17TH, 1873.

ON behalf of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, we have gratefully to acknowledge the courtesy of the Earl of Kimberley, in sending, under date of Dec. 17th, a copy of a despatch from the Marquis of Normanby to his Lordship, dated October 3rd, 1873, covering a full report of the whole case by the Attorney-General of Queensland, together with a copy of the evidence of the Polynesians, which was taken personally by the Attorney-General.

While anxious to give due consideration to the statements of the Attorney-General, as set forth in his report—yet, on a number of grounds, we are unable to regard the evidence of the Polynesians, who now state that they came off to the *Jason* of their own accord, as of such a character as to justify the action taken in liberating Captain Coath.

### POLYNESIAN KIDNAPPERS.

#### MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE.—THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT AT FAULT.

WE regret the necessity to call the attention of the public to two cases in which justice has been outraged by the Colonial authorities in Victoria and Queensland, and the conviction deepened that there is a want of earnestness in high official quarters to suppress Polynesian kidnapping. To understand the matter, it will be well briefly to recapitulate particulars. We refer first to

#### THE PRISONERS MOUNT AND MORRIS.

These men united with Dr. James Patric Murray in the *Carl* adventure. Having obtained a run of land on the island of Api, with a view to grow cotton, they and their *confrères* went in search of "labour." They resorted to a number of fraudulent dodges, and then to deeds of violence, and secured a cargo of kidnapped natives, who were confined in the hold of the ship. The Bougainville people tried one night to force open the hatches, when Murray, Mount, Morris, and others, fired indiscriminately through the partially-open hatchway into them all night. In the morning it was found that forty natives were killed, and sixteen or twenty seriously wounded. Instead of attending to the latter, they tied their hands and feet, and threw the dead and dying into the sea. At first these horrible deeds were hushed up, but subsequently Dr. Murray confessed what had been done. The captain and mate were thereupon arrested, sent by Consul March to Victoria to be tried; and afterwards Messrs. Mount and Morris—young men of education and good position—were arrested and tried, under an *imperial* Act, Vict. 12 and 13, for murder. The Jury, however, brought in a verdict of manslaughter, thereby plainly indicating what view they took of the slaughter in cold blood of nearly sixty unarmed, kidnapped men, confined in the hold of a ship, and unable to shelter themselves from the bullets which were poured in upon them. The Judge sentenced them, under Vict. 16 and 17, to fifteen years' penal servitude, and pointed out at the time that, under section 6 of the law, application should be made to Her Majesty's Secretary of State to determine in which prison they should undergo the sentence. Meanwhile they were placed in the lawful custody of the Sheriff of the Melbourne gaol, where they remained for some time, but not doing any penal service.

The Victoria Government failed to apply to the Secretary of State for instructions, and removed the prisoners to



the penal settlement at Pentridge, in the custody of the Inspector-General of Prisons, who under the Imperial Act was not authorised to receive them. The friends of the prisoners at once saw and availed themselves of the blunder—applied for a writ of *Habeas Corpus*, argued the case before the Supreme Court, which ruled that the convicts were not in the lawful custody of the Inspector-General of Prisons, and, amidst the cheers of several persons, liberated them from his charge.

When beyond the precincts of the Court, the prisoners were re-arrested on the charge of being convicts under sentence illegally at large. On the morning of hearing, as if by magic, *twenty-six Justices of the Peace appeared on the Bench to assist the Police Magistrate*, who, within a few minutes, and surrounded by an enormous number of sympathizing friends, discharged the men, not as we are advised that they were not convicts, or that there was no legal custodian to receive them, but on the ground that the Supreme Court had liberated them.

The neglect of the Colonial authorities to apply to the Secretary of State for instructions in what prison to confine them—removing them from lawful to illegal custodians—demands the most serious consideration. We shall be glad to see that Her Majesty's Government will suitably deal with this case, and teach the Victoria Government that the British nation is not prepared to witness a similar miscarriage of justice, however respectably connected, wealthy or educated, the criminals may be.

#### CAPTAIN COATH.

The second case of which we have seriously to complain is that of Captain Coath, of the *Jason*. We may remind our readers that in 1870 or 1871 Captain Coath went in search of "labour" for some Queensland planters. Mr. Micklejohn, a Government agent, who wished to do his duty, went with him. How he was ill-treated, drugged, put in chains, confined in the hold of the ship among the kidnapped natives; what sufferings he endured, he related at length in a published letter. When the *Jason* returned with its live cargo, the doings of the captain became subject of inquiry. Pressed by public opinion, though we have reason to believe very unwillingly, the authorities in Queensland put Captain Coath on trial for kidnapping. The evidence of two of the ship's crew, and of Mr. Micklejohn, was plain, straightforward, irresistible. It was not then, it never since has been, invalidated under cross-examination. The jury convicted him, and the judge passed a sentence of four years and a fine of £50, assuring the prisoner that on the evidence

adduced he might have been tried and convicted for piracy. Some points of law were afterwards argued, but eventually the Chief Judge, Sir James Cockle, maintained the sentence of Judge Lutwyche.

Interested parties, however, were unwilling to see the sentence of the law take its course. Sympathy was enlisted on behalf of the prisoner. The *Marysbrough Chronicle* discussed the trial and the sentence. Influence was brought to bear upon Government. At last persistence was crowned with success. A magistrate's court was held; the Attorney-General attended it, listened to the extra-judicial and one-sided statements which the Polynesians in the employ of the Marysbrough planters made. We are not surprised to hear that they denied having been kidnapped. Considering all the circumstances, such statements were to be expected. In due course these statements were submitted to the executive council, who sent them to Judge Lutwyche, who tried the case. We are advised that His Honour reported that he saw no reason to alter his opinion or disturb the verdict. The papers were sent a second time, but returned without obtaining a different reply. The Chief Justice, who concurred in the sentence, was not consulted at all. The Executive Council, however, resolved to recommend the Governor to remit the remainder of the sentence, and His Excellency has complied with the request, and set the convicted kidnapper at liberty. We deem this another miscarriage of justice. We grieve to see that, in face of the evidence adduced at the trial, in face of the reply of the judge who tried the case, and in face, too, of the constant complaints that have been made of Queensland vessels being still engaged in kidnapping, His Excellency the Marquis of Normanby should have acted as he has. We cannot but record our painful conviction that, by liberating this man the system of kidnapping the natives of Polynesia has been indirectly encouraged.

#### THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE "LABOUR-SEEKING" BRITISH SHIP, THE D—.

THE following deposition, relative to a cruise of the British ship *D—*, in the Southern Seas, was made before Mr. William Cowling Michell, at Her Majesty's Consulate of Fiji and Tonga, at Levuka, Fiji, on July 29th, 1873, by a native Fijian, named Jona Vida. We have the names of the vessel, captain, some of the crew, and the Fijians. It has come to our knowledge that the whole of the circumstances of this slave

cruise was laid before the Commodore of one of Her Majesty's men of war. Why one of the principal offenders was not arrested and tried remains to be explained. The whole of these kidnapped people are still held in slavery in Fiji.

Jona Vida deposed:—“That about July, 1871, being on board a vessel called the *D—*, he sailed from Levuka as one of the crew, and others, among them three Fijians, on board. They went to Tanna, from thence to Sandwich, and thence to a large harbour, where they heard of a seizure of a vessel by natives, and the murder of the crew. There were several vessels in this large harbour. The masters of them, and those in authority held a council together what they should do, and it was decided that they should go and attack Muna. They attacked the island, and we reached the beach in the boats. Some of the white people were armed with guns, pistols, and knives. The Fijians were then appointed to watch the boats whilst the white people advanced. I heard firing. I saw no natives struck, but I afterwards learned that two were killed. They then recovered some of the property stolen from the vessel (the vessel above referred to being the *Fanny*, that had been pillaged by the natives) when an onslaught was made by the natives ashore on the people about re-embarking in the boats, but only a bullet passed close to the ear of a white man. We then returned to Sandwich. Some teachers were taken on board who were suspected of having been implicated in the pillage of the *Fanny*. These people were threatened by the *D—* people and their colleagues, but were subsequently released. One of their attendants was afterwards taken back to Muna, but he was thrown into the sea some distance therefrom, which we remonstrated against. We then sailed to Apū, from thence to the Solomon Islands, from thence to Kelikana. There, two canoes pulled off to us. We were ordered to prepare to seize these canoes, but the captain said, ‘No! the wind is too light; we cannot get off.’ We did some trading with the canoes; they then went to the land, and we stood off. We returned to the same spot in the morning. Two canoes came off to us, and we tried to approach them. They were shy. Trade was held up to induce them to come near. Afterwards they came alongside, and Alick traded with them. Alick then jumped on the canoe, sunk it, and the second canoe escaped—the crew of the sunken canoe swimming about. I seized a native, and lifted him into the boat. We then followed in the boat after the other three, and seized them. Alick and we three Fijians were the crew in the boat. The four captured people were then put down

below. Afterwards we sailed along the coast, and one canoe came off, when the usual course was followed; that is, Alick traded with them, and sunk the canoe. We followed the three people who were in the water, Alick in the meantime intimidating them by pointing a gun at them, when they stopped and were captured. These three were also placed on board the *D—*. They were placed below. We then sailed to a long island near; a small canoe came off when near. We tried to catch it; could not do so. We then tried to run it down, but they paddled very quickly. Seeing the canoe, Alick fired at it. No one appeared to be struck. That canoe escaped. Then a large number of canoes came off; perhaps twenty. They brought bows and arrows with them. We feared to do anything to them—they were too many. Shortly after, two canoes came off to trade. Both of these canoes were sunk in the usual way. In all, six persons were on the two canoes. Two of the six got hold of the rudder. The four others we pulled after, and got them into the boat. One seized an oar with which to strike us, but we tied him down with a rope. One got on board the drifting canoes while we were in chase of the rest, and tried to paddle to land. We followed, and he, seeing us, leaped into the water, and dived about to escape; at last we caught him, and took them to the vessel. The one who was holding by the rudder had a rope dropped overboard to him, and he was hauled on board. We put to sea, and returned to the land some miles lower down, using the telescope constantly. Another canoe came off, with two men in it. The boat was lowered, and pulled off so as to intercept them. We got them between the boat and the vessel, and seized them. We then sailed lower down, and several canoes came off. We gave them a large knife, and told them to go on shore to get figs for us. Soon afterwards a canoe returned to the vessel. We did some trading with them, and Alick sunk the canoe. It was Alick's business always to sink the canoes. There were three on board—two of them were readily seized; a third we could not catch, and Alick fired at him three times. We then sailed to an island called Sarn, where a white man lived. There were some fowls there. At night we were ordered to put two of the crew on shore. One gave me a revolver to hold, in order to be ready in the event of a disturbance. Shortly after, H—— and the white man who resided ashore came to the boat with two women, and we took them on board. After a while, we took the white man to the shore, and then took Alick off to the ship. He had been left on shore. When we got Alick on board we hoisted sail, and we lifted the

catch of the windlass as we hove up the anchor, in order that the noise of our departure might not be heard. The white man from the shore called out to us to bring the women to the shore. The man ashore called out in a crying tone. I heard the words 'kill me'; and I understood that if the women were not returned, he would be killed; but we went off. We then sailed away to the lower end of Kelikana, where a gale of wind caught us, in which we were for several days. The women were ill-treated.\*

These women, with the men, were brought to Fiji. After the storm was over we sailed up to Kelikana, and getting opposite a town a canoe with four persons came off to us. Orders were given for the boats to be ready, and Alick, after trading with the people on the canoe, sunk it. The natives swam off, and we pulled after them. I was directed to dive after them, as we could not catch them. I caught three by diving after them, and got three on board the boat, and the fourth allowed himself to be taken. Some canoes were coming off at the same time, and we fired upon them, but they escaped to the land. We then returned to the Solomon Islands, where we took water on board. Early in the morning several people we had on board escaped overboard. We were all aroused. The white men rushed together; one native leaped overboard, and was fired at. I don't know whether it hit the native. After daylight two of the people from the island came on board. Alick told these two people that the vessel was coming back to buy yams. We sailed off to a place called Gunu-Gawa. We sailed along the coast, and two natives came off in a canoe. As they pulled towards us their canoe sunk, and they called to us. We took their canoe in tow, Alick saying that they would bail out the canoe when they reached the vessel. But while they were looking towards the vessel he unfastened the canoe, and it was allowed to drift away, and the two were kept on board the vessel. We sailed along a little further, and the canoes were coming off, and these two were told to go below. This was always our practice when canoes came in sight. But on this occasion these two people refused. They were then seized, and forcibly pushed below. The elder tried to push his way up. One of the white men then handcuffed his hands behind him, and then punched him in the face, and blood flowed all over his mouth. He was bound for two nights. We then went to one or two other places, named Solomon and Sandro, and bought nuts, and got water. Also came to

Api, to Mia, but did not anchor; eventually anchored at Sandwich. We then came to Fiji. After our arrival in Fiji we had a dispute about our payment, and we threatened to report the proceedings on board to the Consul; whereupon Alick said, 'Don't!' and eventually we were paid. I do not remember to have seen any of the white persons on board since our return, excepting one."

## REVIEWS.

*Life Wanderings, and Labours in Eastern Africa, by Charles New. Published by Hodder & Stoughton. (Pp. 525.)*

We cordially recommend this volume. It is well written, instructive and illustrated with several engravings. The writer gives an interesting account of the geography of the country, and of the ethnology, languages, customs, laws, and condition (social and moral) of the tribes in East Africa with whom Mr. New came into contact, and especially of those around Mombassa. The particulars of his journey to, and ascent of, the Equatorial snow mountain—Kalima Njaro are deeply interesting.

Looked at from an anti-slavery standpoint, we are glad to see that Mr. New in nowise passes over the subject of slavery in silence but gives a faithful picture of the slave-hunts, journeys, and markets, and shows the state of slavery among the various tribes he visited. The 25th chapter treats exclusively of the slave-trade: showing what are its sources, extent, origin, and horrible attendants of the journeys to the coast. Mr. New, with good reason, expresses the fear that, though checked for a while at Zanzibar, the trade will break out again ere long.

We marked several paragraphs to quote as showing how slavery enters into and degrades every relation of life among the people in East Africa, but want of space compels us to omit them. We recommend our friends to purchase the work, and become acquainted with the particulars given. Christianity alone can cure the evils. May the Missionary Societies send forth their agents to pour the light of truth into these lands, and thereby destroy slavery and superstition, and lead men to Christ.

*La Abolición de la Esclavitud en el orden Económico. Par Rafael M. de Labra. Madrid, 1874.*

The above is an octavo volume of 456 pages, in which the able and indefatigable author incontestably proves the policy, as well as the justice, of immediate emancipation. M. de Labra has further served the cause by this addition to his former works.

\* The particulars we cannot publish.



## The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1st, 1874.

### THE VIRGINIUS.—CUBAN SLAVERY AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

SLAVERY and its offspring civil war still continue to exist in the Island of Cuba, and from time to time to add page after page to the "book of blood."

Since our last number was issued, the civilised world has been startled with the massacre, at St. Iago de Cuba, of many of the passengers and crew of the *Virginus*. The hot haste with which the merciless executions were perpetrated by General Burriel and the volunteers so outraged the feelings of the people, both on this and the other side of the Atlantic, that a general expectation was raised that the time had at length arrived when Great Britain and the United States would interpose their moral power to put an end to these atrocities. It was known that the American Government had long ago offered to unite with the English Government in friendly offices to bring the war to an end, and as the great bone of contention between the two parties to the civil war in Cuba was slavery, it was confidently anticipated that slavery would at length be extinguished for ever in the island. What recent correspondence has taken place on the subject between the two Governments we are not at present aware; but it would be an unspeakable satisfaction to many people in this country to know that the British Cabinet has awakened from its lethargy, and that henceforth the claims of humanity and the honour of British treaties are to be no longer disregarded.

As to the Spanish Government, our readers will remember the avowed determination of the present Cabinet to get rid of slavery, both in Porto Rico and Cuba. The abolition of slavery in Porto Rico they accomplished, notwithstanding the formidable opposition of the opulent slave-trade party in Madrid. In this effort they had the strong moral support of the United States rendered through General Sickles, its excellent representative in Madrid. But we have deeply regretted to learn, through the Spanish Abolition Society, that no interest or sympathy is ever manifested on the subject by the British Government, or its representative in Madrid. They cannot understand why a Government having bases of action in British treaties entered into by former English Governments with so much interest and at such great sacrifice, should now appear

wholly indifferent to the abolition of slavery.

By the non-recognition of its Government on the part of Great Britain, Spain has been weakened, and the insurrections against her present Government have been strengthened.

It has been remarked that when, as in the case of the late Emperor of the French, a republic was extinguished by blood and the destruction of a national assembly, the English Government acknowledged Napoleon III. before the blood was out of the gutters of Paris—whilst she refuses to acknowledge the present republic of Spain which shed no blood, and has been stated by high authority to have made no mistakes.

The two peoples of England and Spain desire to see slavery abolished. If the British Government has any real desire for the accomplishment of this great object, let it make the extinction of slavery in Cuba a condition, and no longer withhold from Spain a full and frank acknowledgment.

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### MEMORIAL TO DON EMILIO CASTELAR.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY DON EMILIO CASTELAR, PRESIDENT OF THE MINISTRY.

THE acceptance by you of the exalted position of First Minister of Spain has excited in the minds of the Members of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and among the friends of liberty in Great Britain, a confident hope that Slavery will at length be immediately abolished in the Island of Cuba.

It seems impossible to doubt this when we recur to your many declarations on the subject, and to the well-known opinions and professions of some of your honoured colleagues in office.

The people of this country can never forget the noble sentiments so eloquently and powerfully uttered by you in the Cortes of 1870, the opening passage of which was couched in these emphatic words:—"We likewise desire abolition, but abolition immediate. The question of Slavery is now planted on a very different ground to what it formerly was. Once there were open enemies to abolition, now all profess to favour it; but some desire it gradual, which is the very same thing as to maintain Slavery and all its horrors, while others desire it immediate, which is to extirpate the evil by the root. I would give no more time to the Government than is necessary, looking at the distance which separates us from the Antilles, to carry to

a head this grand act of calling to civil life and the life of right 400,000 men."

Your name also stands among the twenty-three honoured men who, in September, 1872, signed the declaration which contains these true and warning words—

"That the abolition of Slavery at the present time will be a measure highly politic to end the insurrection in Cuba, while its delay may help the resistance, as happened in 1793 and 1804 in the Island of Santo Domingo."

How far these words have proved true, we have only to recur to what has occurred in Cuba within the twelve months which have elapsed since they were written.

Twelve months of added anarchy, loss of life, ruin, and financial embarrassment.

We cheerfully and gratefully acknowledge what the infant Republic has done for Porto Rico. It must be highly encouraging to you and your colleagues to observe the happy results of the act of immediate abolition passed by Cortes in March last.

Like every other act of immediate emancipation which history records the measure has been perfectly successful.

Half-measures were found to be terribly injurious to all classes in the British Colonies, and we believe they will prove the same wherever they are tried.

Freedom is the best preparation for freedom, and justice the only solid foundation for prosperity and peace.

It is our earnest desire and prayer that you may be strengthened in this great matter to "be just and fear not;" so will you secure lasting honour to your name and administration, and the sympathies of Europe; and may look with hope and confidence for the blessing of the Most High.

On behalf of the Anti-Slavery Society,

We are very respectfully,

JOSEPH COOPER,

EDMUND STURGE,

ROBT. ALSOP,

BENJ. MILLARD, *Secretary.*

LONDON, September 12th, 1873.

#### THE MEMORIAL TO EARL GRANVILLE ON SLAVERY IN CUBA AND SALE OF FREE NEGROES.

IN view of the state of things brought about by the ferocious butchery of a number of Cuban, American, and British subjects taken from the captured ship *Virginius*, the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society have again memorialised Earl Granville, entreating Her Majesty's Government to rest satisfied with no settlement of the existing

complications which does not provide for the extinction of slavery in Cuba.

They have also called the attention of Government to the fact, that the Captain-General of Cuba has decreed the sale of between 10,000 and 15,000 negroes, who not only were entitled to liberty under British Treaty rights, but who were ACTUALLY EMANCIPATED by their former owners. The proceeds of such sale, are to be paid into the public treasury to meet certain bills about to fall due.

Will the Foreign Office act as the worthy representatives of a people who abhor slavery and the slave-trade?

TO THE RIGHT HON. EARL GRANVILLE,  
HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY  
OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

THE Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society venture once more to address Her Majesty's Government, on their obligations in reference to Cuba, at the present crisis of affairs in that island.

It was in view of the powerlessness of Spain to terminate the civil war which had already raged for nearly two years, that a large and influential deputation waited upon the Earl of Clarendon, on the 15th of June, 1870, to urge on Her Majesty's Government that, in virtue of the treaty-rights of Great Britain, they would, acting in accord with the Government of the United States, obtained such a settlement in that island as should both terminate the barbarous civil war, and, at the same time, secure by a measure of emancipation, the performance of the stipulations which had been so long and so persistently violated.

Again, on the 23rd of January, 1872, after witnessing for eighteen months longer this ferocious internecine strife, another deputation waited on your Lordship, to urge upon Her Majesty's Government the same considerations.

Nearly two more years have now elapsed, and Cuba is still deluged in blood; on the lowest computation 150,000 men, women, and children have perished, and now the indiscriminating ferocity of the Volunteers, by the immolation of Englishmen and American citizens, has rendered necessary a prompt and decisive action on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and also that of the United States.

The information received by the Committee from their correspondents has been altogether of a most unsatisfactory character. So far from progress being made in the direction of abolition, information is received that, at the instigation of the Intendant General of Cuba, the Captain-General of the island has issued a decree

authorising the sale of a large number of negroes who had been emancipated by their former owners. The decree enacts that the proceeds of the sale of these men into slavery shall be paid into the public treasury to meet certain bills about to fall due.

The number is stated by the Spanish Abolitionist Society, in an address to His Excellency Señor Castelar, to be somewhere between ten and fifteen thousand.

The Spanish Society reminds His Excellency that the proposed sale is absolutely forbidden by the 5th Section of the law of Señor Moret passed by the Cortes in 1870.

When it is considered that nearly all of these people have a claim to liberty in virtue of British treaties, that they have been made free, and that they are now about to be re-enslaved in violation of Spanish law, your Lordship will see that the case is one which imperatively calls for prompt interposition.

The Committee have now, therefore, earnestly to entreat Her Majesty's Government to rest satisfied with no settlement of the existing complications which does not ensure the complete extinction of slavery; inasmuch as it owes its existence at this time in Cuba to the violation of the most solemn treaties.

The Committee respectfully submit that Her Majesty's Government will thus confer a lasting benefit on Spain by relieving her of her greatest political difficulty, and one which she is powerless to surmount, and will at length fulfil the just claims of England and of the civilised world.

We remain most respectfully,

JOSEPH COOPER,

EDMUND STURGE,

ROBERT ALSOP,

BENJAMIN MILLARD, *Secretary.*

27, New Broad Street,

22nd Nov., 1873.

#### THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON CUBAN SLAVERY.

FROM year to year the President of the United States has spoken on the subject of slavery in Cuba. This year the case of the capture of the *Virginus* has brought this question again on the carpet. After referring to the capture and the demands of the American Government on Spain, the President says in his Message to the Congress,—

“In taking leave of this subject for the present I wish to renew the expression of my conviction that the existence of African slavery in Cuba is a principal cause of the

lamentable condition of the island. I do not doubt that Congress shares with me the hope that it will soon disappear, and that peace and prosperity may follow its abolition. The embargoing of American estates in Cuba, and cruelty to American citizens detected in no act of hostility to the Spanish Government; the murdering of prisoners taken with arms in their hands; and, finally, the capture upon the high seas of a vessel sailing under the United States' flag, and bearing a United States' registry, have culminated in an outburst of indignation that has seemed for a time to threaten war. Pending negotiations between the United States and the Government of Spain on the subject of the capture, I have authorised the Secretary of the Navy to put our Navy on a war footing to the extent at least of the entire annual appropriation for that branch of the service, trusting to Congress and the public opinion of the American people to justify my action.”

#### CHINESE COMMISSIONERS TO CUBA AND PERU, TO INQUIRE INTO THE TREATMENT OF CHINA COOLIES.

IT is with much pleasure that we see it announced that a Special Commission has been appointed by the Emperor of China, to proceed to Havannah and Lima to examine into the treatment of China coolie immigrants in Cuba and Peru, and to report thereon to the Imperial Government.

Repeatedly have we in the *Reporter* published accounts of the disgraceful and outrageous treatment of China coolies in Cuba and Peru. In numberless instances the wrongs and sufferings of these poor people have been far worse than those of the African slaves. Both Peru and Cuba groan under the cruelties inflicted upon the helpless victims brought from Macao, and it is gratifying to know that a commission has been appointed by the Chinese Government to search into these matters.

Under ordinary circumstances, in constitutionally-governed colonies, commissioners appointed to investigate into cases of wrongs meet with a great number of difficulties to get at the truth. Interested parties do all they can to obstruct the inquiry, to keep back certain evidence, to bribe witnesses. And we can see what difficulties the Imperial Commissioners from China will have to overcome in order to secure the success of their mission. A correspondent tells us that “the last news from the Havannah, as well as from Peru,



mention that great efforts are made there to remove all signs of ill-treatment of the coolies, *i.e.* of all exterior appearance of what until now has been the general practice, so as to cheat the Commissioners into a false report."

We have reason to know that there are some English, American and German gentlemen, both in Cuba and Peru, witnesses of the oppression of the Chinese, who will be ready to provide the Commissioners with any information in their possession. And we would urge upon them to put themselves in communication with the Commissioners. We understand that there is a British, an American, and a German gentleman, besides a Chinese lawyer, belonging to the commission, so that witnesses of these nationalities, need not fear that they will not be welcomed.

We were glad to see that when the question of immigration from British India to Cuba was submitted to Earl Granville, his Lordship, under date of April 10th, 1871, replied "that Her Majesty's Government could only consider a scheme for the introduction of British immigrants, *when slavery is utterly abolished in the island, and then only under the protection of a treaty.*" We shall rejoice to know that the Chinese Commissioners will most earnestly and emphatically urge upon the Imperial Government that, under no circumstances, no pretext or promise or treaty whatsoever, should another China immigrant be deported to Cuba so long as slavery exists there, *under any form whatever*, whether as apprenticeship or otherwise. Not only should the formal abolition of slavery, but the non-existence of negro apprenticeship, and the guaranteed absolute, full liberty of every inhabitant of the island, be a *sine qua non* to any emigration from China or elsewhere into Cuba; and then only of a spontaneous character—similar to that from China to America.

#### THE LIBERATED SLAVES IN KHIVA.

WE rejoice to see that the Russian General and authorities in Khiva have not allowed the treaty for the abolition of slavery in the Khanate to remain a dead letter. The following extracts from *The Indian Public Opinion and Punjab Times*, of November 7, show that large numbers of slaves are being sent to their native countries. It is gratifying to see the noble anti-slavery spirit displayed by the Russian government.

"After the departure of the Russians towards the Yemoot territory, the slaves

released in Oorgunj returned to Bokhara in bodies of from 100 to 4,000.

"They are all natives of Herat, Candabar, Hazarajat, &c., &c. The Persian slaves have gone to Teheran with an elder elected by themselves. The Heratee, Khorasanee, and other slaves proceed by way of Bokhara to their homes.

"A few days ago a body of four thousand Heratee slaves marched *via* Bokhara to their country, and said that the Russian Viceroy at Oorgunj had given them a letter to the address of Your Highness, and one to the address of Sirdar Mahomed Yakooob Khan, to the effect that the Afghan subjects retained as slaves in Oorgunj had been released."

#### THE KHAN OF KHIVA'S REQUEST AND THE CZAR OF RUSSIA'S REFUSAL, TO ALLOW THE CONTINUANCE OF THE SLAVE-TRADE.

In the *Indian Public Opinion* of Nov. 21, we find the following gratifying intelligence:—

"We hear from Bokhara that the brother of the Khan of Khiva has been to the Czar of Russia with a letter of request that the annual revenue might be reduced; and that the Khivans be permitted to carry on the slave-trade as usual. The Czar, it was said, was gratified at receiving the letter, and promised that he would take only one-fifth of the present revenue, but that all trade in slaves was strictly prohibited, and any person found guilty of the traffic would be severely punished. The ruler of Takka and Yamooth has also been warned against continuing the slave-trade."

Comment on a policy so humane and noble is unnecessary. It will be well if the British Government adopt a similar course with regard to the slave-trade and slavery among the protected tribes on the West Coast of Africa, and the protected dependencies in India.

#### THE SLAVE TRADE IN THE HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AND SLAVERY IN CABOOL.

ON Tuesday evening, November 25th, Dr. G. W. Leitner, M.A., Principal of the Government College at LAHORE, and discoverer of the races and languages of Dardistan, gave a lecture before the Anthro-

pological Institute, at the rooms, 4, St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square. Professor Busk, F.R.S., the President, in the chair. Dr. Leitner gave an account of the race of people—the Siah Posh Kaffirs, a supposed Macedonian race colony in the Hindu Kush. They carry on the slave-trade; and the Ameer of Cabool, a feudatory of the British Government, receiving a large annual stipend, is a purchaser of slaves. A system of slavery obtains throughout this district. Previous to the Russian occupation of Khiva, a very large slave-trade was carried on, but since the Khan, under Russian influence, had abolished the slave-trade and slavery in the Khanate, the number of enslaved has decreased. Still thousands are annually kidnapped and sold into bondage.

As the Ameer of Cabool is under British protection, here is a new opening for the Government to bring its influence to bear in promoting the interests of humanity, and to extend the work of emancipation so nobly effected by the Russian authority in the neighbouring Khanate of Khiva.

#### CHINESE COOLIES IN PERU.

FROM the *South Pacific Times*, of October 18th, 1873, we learn that the Government of Peru have issued a decree respecting the future treatment of Chinese immigrants. Though the provisions are professedly in favour of the coolie, we have little faith in the value of these directions.

Unless public sentiment and public faith in Peru undergo a radical reformation, the executive parts of the decree will be a dead letter, and the wretched Coolies will continue to be oppressed. The Imperial Commissioners will have this new law, no doubt, brought under their consideration.

*Black Ivory.* By R. L. Ballantyne. Published by Nisbet & Co. (Pp. 416).

This volume reached us too late to notice in the last *Reporter*. It is a work designed to awaken the interest of the young in the abolition of the slave-trade on the East Coast of Africa. It is written in the form of a tale, in an easy, pleasant style. The facts concerning the slave-trade are interwoven with interesting incidents of adventure and domestic life among the Africans. The writer shows plainly that so long as individuals who profess to suppress, are really aiding the slave-trade, the evil can never be effectually cured. We cordially recommend the work to our young friends.

#### THE LABOUR-LAWS OF THE FRENCH COLONIES.

IN a recent number of the *Reporter* we briefly noticed a pamphlet, then lately issued, by Mons. Victor Schœlcher, exposing the oppressive character of the labour-code (*régime du travail*), in the French colonies. We are indebted to the same indefatigable champion of justice for the negro, for a copy of the proceedings of a sub-committee, deputed by a larger general committee, to examine this code, and to report upon the same. The committee referred to was appointed on the 3rd of October last year by Admiral de Pothonau, Minister of Marine and of the Colonies, whose enlightened deference to public opinion, in this matter, merits the thanks of all true friends of free-labour. The outcry in the Colonies against the ordinances known under the designation of the *arrêtés Gueydon et Husson*, had long been a scandal to the French colonial authorities; for though disguised under the term of "regulations for labour," they really re-established slavery under another and a most insidious form. Nor would it be just, in this connection, to omit the name of Victor Schœlcher, who justly denounced these oppressive enactments as soon as they appeared, who has never ceased to expose their mischievous tendency, and who has striven, up to the present time, to obtain the abrogation of some, and the modification of others. The General Committee did not meet until the 21st of March last, when it nominated a sub-committee, consisting of MM. Victor Schœlcher (chairman), Lormel and Rivet, and Lagrange (secretary), its functions being confined to the collation of documentary evidence, and the preparation of a report for ultimate discussion in General Committee.\*

We must express regret that the limited

\* The following gentlemen compose the General Committee, namely:—

Vice-Admiral Fourichon, Member of the National Assembly, president; MM. de Champvallier, General Frebault, V. Schœlcher (Martinique), Rollin (Guadaloupe), La Serve (Réunion), Marc (Guiana), Members of the National Assembly; Rear-Admiral Bourgois, Councillor of State; Andral, Councillor of State; Zœpfell, Chief Councillor of the Court of Accounts, and ex-Director for the Colonies; the Baron Benoist D'Azy, Director for the Colonies; De Lormet, Governor of Réunion, formerly Governor of Guadaloupe; Rivet, First Substitute of the Attorney-General of Martinique; Roy, Chef de Bureau in the Colonial Office (secretary); and Captain Delagrangé, R.N., ex-colonial commandant, assistant-secretary.

space at our disposal precludes us from giving more than the barest outline of the instructive and exhaustive report presented by this sub-committee. It may suffice, for the present, to record, that its investigations embraced not only the Colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, and Réunion, but the small settlements of Mayotte, Nossibé, and Sainte-Marie de Madagascar, on the East African Coast. No general labour-law exists, applicable alike to all the colonies, but the principle underlying the whole labour-system is identical, implying a similar mistrust of the native and the imported labourer, most painfully apparent, though less so as regards the latter. It is simply an ingeniously devised series of regulations, plausibly protective theoretically, but practically unmitigatedly oppressive.

The majority of the sub-committee would appear to have been imbued with the prejudice that the freed negro is unwilling to work; an assumption originating in colonial influences and misleading information, and to which may be ascribed the tendency, observable throughout the preliminary investigation, to consider the whole labour-system from the planters' point of view more than from the freed labourers'. M. Schœlcher very justly contends that the freed negro ought to possess the right to sell his labour in the market of his own selection, to the employer of his own choice, and for such a term as both may mutually agree to. It must be obvious that these are the true and only just conditions of free labour anywhere, and that to trammel them by vexatious regulations must be productive of results inimical to the true interests of the employer as well as the employé. Such restrictions also produce mischievous social results, by constituting a caste, thus introducing a condition wholly incompatible with real freedom, as it is with the true spirit of free institutions. Imbued with these views the minority in the sub-committee sought to obtain the removal of all the vexatious restraints imposed upon the peasant labourer by the existing code, with the pains and penalties attaching to the violation of any of its hard conditions. In certain rare instances, success attended these efforts, but the gain is not important. We can only hope that, in the general committee, the minority in the sub-committee may be converted into a majority, and will be guided in its recommendations by the spirit of justice and liberality hitherto so conspicuously absent in French colonial legislation for the negro. The question of immigration also occupied the attention of the sub-committee. M. Schœlcher, whilst admitting that it might be a present necessity desig-

nated it as a most regrettable fact, and expressed the opinion that it would have been better not to have recourse to the introduction of foreign labour, because the facility of obtaining this new element and the abundance of it resulted in a disregard and discouragement of native labour, and estranged it from estate and cultivation, besides causing the planters to attach no importance to the moral care of the creoles, and to consider them, as well as the immigrants, in the light of mere living agricultural machines. The abuses of the mode of recruiting coolies for the labour-market were also strongly insisted upon, but the majority contended that these objections applied less to the actual than to the past state of things.

The result of the sub-committee's labours was the drafting of a series of questions or interrogatory under the following heads:—

"General labour regulations." Seven sections.

"Labour contracts exceeding a year." Nine sections.

"The *livret* system." Twenty sections.

"Pains and Penalties." Twelve sections.

"Passports for the Interior." Four sections.

"Administrative overseeing and protection of the work of women and children in the factories." Seven sections.

"Suppression of Vagabondage." Four sections.

"Conversion of fines into days' labour." Three sections.

"Discipline-gangs." Sixteen sections.

"Immigration." Sixteen sections.

This interrogatory will shortly be discussed in the General Committee. It will be observed that it embraces the entire field, and, whatever be the practical result of the investigation, it cannot but have an important bearing upon the future condition of the labourers in the French colonies: and there we must leave the subject for the present.

The abolition of slavery by the government of 1848, was appreciated by the civilized world as an honour to France, but the present condition of the labourers in her colonies is a disgrace under which, were they fully aware of it, the French people would not rest.

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#### BRITISH IMMIGRANTS IN FRENCH COLONIES.—1869.

From "Tableaux de population, de Culture, de Commerce et de Navigation, formant pour l'année 1869," published in Paris, we learn that the following is the number of immigrants in some of the French Colo-



nies in 1869, since which time additional coolies from India have been imported.

Réunion (Nationality not stated)	72,246
Mayotte (Ditto)	3,793
Nossi-Bé (Ditto)	4,471
Martinique, Indians	9,587
Ditto Chinese	570
Ditto Africans	6,461
	16,618
Guadaloupe and Dependencies (Nationality not given)	32,974
French Guiana, Indians	2,016
Ditto Chinese	66
Ditto Africans	859
	2,941
	133,043

The most of these people are helpless British subjects, chiefly from India, ignorant of the language, laws, and customs of the foreign colonies to which they have been taken, and require, on the part of the English Government, the most vigilant supervision and unfailing protection to shield them from wrong and oppression.

#### INDIA COOLIES IN REUNION.

WE understand that Her Majesty's Consul in *Réunion* has reported to the Government that the British Indian coolies in that island suffer much injustice and oppression. We shall be glad to learn that the English Government have made proper representations to the French Ministry, and demanded a thorough investigation, and a guarantee that the evils complained of shall be remedied without delay.

#### IS SERFDOM AN INSTITUTION IN THE MAURITIUS?

*Le Pays* of the Mauritius makes the following statement:—

"The 'Estate of Poudre d'Or' having changed owners, the labourers who had been engaged upon it refused to work for the new proprietor, M. de Chazal. They left it in a body, and first complained to the Protector; then, on other pretexts, to Mr. Frere, the Royal Commissioner, who sent them back to the property informing them that they were attached by law to the establishment itself, and not to its possessor. They decided to return to the fields, and the stipendiary tribunal of the district condemned the principal leaders to prison.

#### Obituary.

ROBERT FORSTER, ESQ.

THE Committee feel it a duty to place on record their sense of the great service rendered to the anti-slavery cause by their late esteemed friend and colleague ROBERT FORSTER, who died at his residence, in Tottenham, on the 11th of October last, at the advanced age of 87.

He was one of the earliest members of the committee formed in 1825 for the mitigation and gradual extinction of slavery; but about the year 1830, he joined the Agency Committee established for the purpose of exposing the sin of slavery, and of advocating its immediate and entire abolition.

As in the case of his highly esteemed brothers, William and Josiah Forster, his advocacy of the cause of the slave sprung from deep religious conviction—hence the steadiness and perseverance with which he at all times served the cause of the oppressed.

A man of sound judgment and broad sympathies he was a co-worker with contemporary philanthropists in promoting, in many other ways, the benefit of his fellow-men.

Whilst we feel how much the anti-slavery cause has lost, we deeply sympathise with his bereaved and honoured relatives.

JOHN BEAUMONT PEASE, ESQ.

We deeply regret to have to record the loss of another earnest friend of the slave in the decease of JOHN BEAUMONT PEASE, Esq., which took place at his residence, North Lodge, Darlington, on the 12th of November, at the age of 70 years.

He was a liberal supporter of the Anti-Slavery Society; one of his last acts being the promise of a large contribution to the Special Fund.

THE REV. JOHN HOWARD HINTON, M.A.

In the decease of the venerable JOHN HOWARD HINTON, in his eighty-third year, the anti-slavery cause has lost an honoured friend, whose able and unflinching advocacy, forty years ago, did much to promote the abolition of slavery in the British West Indies. Men like these are the great need of the Anti Slavery Society at the present time.

THE LATE SENOR CARASCO.

We have deeply regretted to learn that Señor Carasco, of Madrid, was one of those who went down in the *Ville du Havre*.

He was one of the most eloquent ad-

vocates of the abolition of slavery which Spain has produced.

It may be remembered that, like the late Manual Matamoras, he suffered imprisonment for conscience' sake in the days of Queen Isabella.

For the last few years he had been a devoted and impressive minister of the Gospel in Madrid.

By his death Señor Carasco has left a young wife and three little children, who have a strong claim on those able to render assistance.

Subscriptions in aid of the widow will be gratefully received by Edmund Sturge, 12, Bishopsgate Street Without; or by Joseph Cooper, Essex Hall, Walthamstow.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

THE summer season having passed away, a series of public Anti-Slavery meetings have been held in various places. The attendance at many of these has been encouraging, and the tone of the meetings has been all that can be desired. The people see that the Anti-Slavery work is by no means finished, and that continued, earnest, united efforts have to be put forth to suppress evils which are so widely prevalent, and so persistently carried on.

**BRIGHTON.**—In accordance with previous announcement, a public meeting was held at the Town Hall, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 21st, to hear addresses on the Slave-Trade and its connection with slavery in the Mahommedan countries of Turkey, Egypt, Persia, and Madagascar, and on slavery, in the Christian countries of Brazil and Cuba. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Ireland) presided, supported on the platform by the Rev. Horace Waller, Vicar of Leytonstone, and the Rev. B. Millard, who attended as a deputation from the Anti-Slavery Society; Mr. Marriage Wallis, Mr. Douglas Fox, Mr. Shirley Woolmer, Mr. W. Sleight, Mr. S. Aylen, Mr. Glaisyer, Mr. O. A. Fox, Mr. John Carden, Jun., &c. There was a numerous attendance, and the greatest interest was manifested in the proceedings. The resolutions were unanimously passed.

**EDINBURGH.**—A public meeting was held in the Queen-street Hall, on Friday evening, Oct. 31st. There was a good attendance. On the platform were the Lord Provost, Mr. Duncan M'Laren, M.P., Bailie Cousin, ex-Bailie Lewis, Councillors Methven and Millar, Professor Calderwood, Mr. Burn Murdoch, Mr. David M'Laren, Rev. Mr. Cullen, Mr. Miller, of Millerfield, Mr. Douglas, of Cavers, Dr. Stephenson,

Mr. Westwood, Captain G. Palmer, R.N., Mr. Armour, &c., &c.

On the motion of Mr. DUNCAN M'LAREN, M.P., the chair was taken by the Lord Provost.

The meeting having been opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Cullen,

The LORD PROVOST intimated that he had received letters of apology from Rev. D. K. Drummond (who regretted extremely that he was unable to attend), Mr. Miller, M.P., Rev. Dr. MacGregor, Rev. Dr. W. H. Gray, Rev. J. H. Wilson, Mr. David Dickson, Mr. William Duncan, and several other gentlemen.

**GLASGOW.**—On Monday evening, Nov. 3rd, a meeting was held in the Trades' Hall. Owing to the municipal election, the attendance was smaller than was expected. Mr. William Smeal, Mr. Andrew Paton, the Rev. John M'Dermid, Mr. William Gray, Mr. William Anderson, Mr. George Jackson, Mr. James Macfarlane, Mr. John Stevenson, and other gentlemen were present. The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

**READING.**—A meeting was held in the Town Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 11th of Nov., the chair being occupied by the Rev. A. P. Purey-Cust, M.A., Vicar at St. Mary's. He was supported by Mr. G. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P., the Mayor (A. Beale, Esq.), Messrs. G. & W. Palmer, W. Exall, W. S. Darter, C. J. Andrewes, Rev. G. Smyth, Rev. J. Wood, Rev. H. Waller, G. W. Colebrook, Col. Bazett, and Rev. B. Millard. The hall was crowded by a very respectable audience.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he had received letters of apology from Mr. Sutton, the ex-Mayor, the Rev. C. H. Travers, and other gentlemen. All present were deeply interested in the proceedings of the meeting.

**PAISLEY.**—On Tuesday evening, the 18th November, a public meeting was held in the Free High Church. Provost Murray presided. There were also present the Rev. Charles New, Rev. Benjamin Millard, Sir Peter Coats, Bailie Clark, Rev. Dr. Thomson, Rev. G. C. Hutton, Rev. W. France, Rev. G. C. Clazy, Rev. James Brown, Rev. John Martin, Mr. J. A. Symington, Mr. James Parlane (draper), Mr. Naismith, Mr. Alex. Gardner, Mr. Francis Martin, Councillor Eaglesim, Mr. Archibald Hutchison, Mr. Alex. Speirs, &c. The meeting entered thoroughly into the spirit of the resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

**GREENOCK.**—A public meeting was held in the Temperance Institute, on Thursday, November 19th. The chair was occupied

by Mr. James Morton, Balclutha, who was supported on the platform by the Rev. Charles New, the Rev. B. Millard, Bailies Campbell and Wilson, Councillor Brymner, Commissioners Neil Shaw, R. W. Chalmers, and John Lang, Mr. George Turner (Gourock), Captain Brochie, &c. There was a good attendance, and much interest was shown in the subject of the slave-trade and slavery, the existence of which to many was altogether new.

**KILMARNOCK.**—A meeting was held in the Low Church, on Friday evening, the 20th November, and was presided over by J. Stewart, Esq. The Rev. Mr. Landsborough and the Rev. W. Webster, with the deputation, addressed the meeting. Owing to the severely inclement weather, the attendance was not large, and the Rev. Mr. Webster requested the Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, to give a lecture some Sunday evening, on the slave-trade, when a very large audience would be secured.

**CHATHAM.**—A public meeting for Chatham, Rochester, and vicinity, was held in the Lecture Hall, Chatham, on Friday evening, December 12th. The Mayor of Rochester (J. L. Edwards, Esq.) presided. There were present on the platform, the Deputation from the Anti-Slavery Society, the Revs. Messrs. H. Waller and B. Millard. Also, the Revs. A. Joseph, R. Hardy, A. McKinlay, C. Moir, Messrs. F. Wheeler, E. A. Bernays, and other gentlemen. The chairman read letters expressing sympathy with the Society and regret at not being able to attend the meeting from the Revs. J. G. Bailey, J. Graham, C. Hillard, R. R. B. Maclellan, R. Nobbs, and Mr. F. Belsey. The attendance at first was rather small, but towards the middle of the meeting the numbers increased considerably, and the resolutions were cordially adopted.

**DUNDEE.**—On Wednesday evening, Dec. 17th, a public meeting was held in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall. It was expected that Mr. Yeaman, M.P., would preside on the occasion, but, in his absence, Wm. Thoms, Esq., kindly consented to preside. Mr. C. C. Maxwell, Councillor Allan, Mr. George Rough, and the Deputation, addressed the meeting, which adopted the resolutions unanimously.

**ABERDEEN.**—On Dec. 18th, a remarkably well attended public meeting was held in

the Free South Church. Lord Provost Leslie occupied the chair, and amongst those present were: Rev. C. New, East African missionary; Rev. Mr. Millard, London; Rev. Mr. Rosenberg, Adrianople; Rev. D. Beatt, Belmont St. U. P. Church; Rev. J. M. Sloan, Free South Church; Rev. D. Arthur, Belmont Congregational Church; Rev. M. Galbraith, Charlotte Street, U. P. Church; Rev. Mr. Corbet; Principal Lumsden; Rev. H. Cowan, West Parish; Rev. A. Dickie; Rev. J. M'Kay, Original Secession Church; Mr. W. Henderson, Devanha House; Major Ross; Dr. Gilchrist, &c.

**CHINA COOLIE TRAFFIC TO PERU.**—**GREAT MORTALITY.**—"Advices from Peru state that the Peruvian ship *Don Juan*, Captain Urturiaga, had arrived at Callao from Macao. She left with a cargo of 817 coolies, of which 168 died. Forty, who were in a dying state, were left at Payta.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

##### RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST.

Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to William Allen, Esq., Treasurer.

	£	s.	d.
Alloway, Rev. Wm., Jamaica (sub.)	0	10	0
Brown, G. B., Esq., Halifax (don.)	5	0	0
Clark, Rev. J., Jamaica ...	3	12	6
Cirencester Auxiliary, by			
Thos. Brewin ... (sub.)	10	0	0
Dillwyn, Mrs. S. A., Bath ...	5	0	0
Duckett, Rev. A. (per Rev. W. Dendy), Jamaica ... (col.)	1	2	
Hack, Daniel P., Brighton ... (sub.)	1	1	
Lewis, Samuel, Sierra Leone ...	1	1	0
Lloyd, Samuel, Esq., Birmingham ... (don.)	5	0	0
Palmer, G., Capt. R.N., Edinburgh ...	1	0	0
Paull, Edward ...	1	0	0
Rowntree, Sarah, York ... (sub.)	1	1	0
Rowntree, John S., do. ...	0	10	0
Savory, Rachel ...	1	0	0
Service, Rev. J. (per Rev. W. Dendy), Jamaica ... (col.)	0	10	0
Shewell, Joseph, Colchester (sub.)	0	10	0
Vipan, Mrs. (for 1873 and 1874), Biggleswade ...	0	10	0

##### FOR SPECIAL FUND.

Fry, Joseph Storrs, Esq., Bristol (second moiety) ...	25	0	0
Stephenson, Anne, Mrs., nr. Exeter	10	0	0

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